

A New Man

(a work currently in progress)

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Study 1

A New Man

The Lord is in the process of producing new men, new creatures. Consequently they will be a new race, a spiritual people who bear the image and likeness of the Almighty. These are born by spiritual birth. They are regenerated by Heavenly, Spiritual seed, the Word of the Lord. They have been born unto life eternal. 1 Peter 1:23

God is light, He has always been light, there is no darkness whatsoever in Him. 1 John 1:5

He created a special light for this world on the first day of creation. (Gen. 1:3-5).

A light which was in existence before He created the light giving bodies of light, on the fourth day. (Gen. 1:14-18)

The heavenly bodies which now give light to the universe. Jesus, is the light of the world. John 8:12

That light has shined into our hearts introducing the Lord Jesus to us. Giving to us a knowledge of the glory of the Lord as it is revealed in the Lord Jesus. Bringing us unto Himself that we might walk in the light of the Lord Jesus Christ and fellowship with Him. 1 John 1:7

The precious blood of the Lord Jesus is the only blood of redemption. The new person must be cleansed by His blood. There

is no other way for mankind to be pardoned and set free from their sins but by the blood of Christ. Eph. 1:7

Those who worshipped the Lord under the old covenant and sacrificed the blood of animals for atonement were merely offering substitute sacrifices. They were ineffectual and failed in producing a new creature. Now, through the Lord Jesus, who is the only mediator, the old covenant saints are pardoned. They have received the promise of eternal life, through the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. Heb. 9:15

Jesus came with a complete witness and testimony. That of water, blood and Spirit. 1 John 5:6

We are in close relationship with the Lord when our hearts have been sprinkled with His blood. These three are evident in salvation. We are privileged to draw nigh through the blood of Christ, and our bodies having been washed in the pure water of baptism. Heb. 10:22

There is then that process of inner cleansing which takes place through the washing of the water, the word of the Lord. Eph. 5:26

The Word will not only cleanse but it will put the finishing touches on His construction making the building worthy of being His temple.

Study 2

There is an emptiness in the heart of man, which can only be satisfied by one thing, and that is the majestic presence of the Lord. In His original creation every thing was beautiful until contaminated by sin. When He made man, His highest creation, He placed within Him a desire to live and to live eternally. It is seen in the words of Solomon found in Eccl. 3:11.

God, “set eternity in the hearts of men.” NIV.

That desire can be satisfied by one thing alone and that is by very eternity Himself, the Lord Jesus Christ. Participate of the greatest pleasures of the world to the saturation point and there will still remain an emptiness. That eternal part of us finds full and complete satisfaction in Jesus, alone.

The new man is one who is transformed by the New Birth. Even so, there is much more to be accomplished in the growth and completion of that New Man.

The church at Galatia had started to revert to the customs of the Law. The keeping of religious days and practices. Paul pointed out to them the futility of such actions. His words are just as effective today as they were then.

Especially in relationship to old testament practices that are creeping into the church. He stipulated that their need was for “Christ to be formed” in them. Gal. 4:19

It is no different today. The word formed is the vital part of this

verse and of Christianity. It is the Greek word morphoo. As the caterpillar progresses from a creepy, crawler critter, into a butterfly of beauty so there is a spiritual metamorphoses transforming the sinful man into a man like Christ. A work of beauty and majesty. An individual being transformed into the spiritual nature and character of Christ. Having all of His attributes, gifts and personality shaped and formed in us.

That new man will emulate the personality of the one after whom he is shaped. He will bear His image, His likeness, His stature and His beautiful spiritual bearing. The new man will comprehend the leading of the Spirit and increase in wisdom and knowledge of the Lord, through His Word. Col. 3:10

Those in the temple noted that Peter and John had been with Jesus. Acts 4:13

The new man is created to become the vessel of the Spirit. Therefore, he will manifest the true righteousness and holiness which is to be found in the Lord Jesus. It is impossible to be His possession without being like Him. When Christ dwells within, our whole prospective of life is altered.

Study 3

The new person will make every effort to follow the teaching of the Word. For instance, John exhorted that the individual who is that, new creature, will not sin. It is not that they cannot sin, but rather that because of Christ within, they will not to sin.

Too high a standard? Not at all. This is but basic Christianity. 1 John 2:1

Because of the strength of the nature Christ, who dwells within, we are given the ability to overcome unrighteousness. The instruction of the Word is to be holy, because the one who called you is holy.

This applies to very avenue of life. Its success depends on there being a greater evidence of Christ in us and much, much less of our own will and way. As a matter of fact, the goal is the complete annihilation of the old character and nature 1 Peter 1:15-16

When the Word instructs, it also enables. When His power is working in us, He has the capability of keeping us from sin. We do not need to sin every day in word, thought or deed.

Sinning saints do not magnify the Lord by their actions. Not only will he keep us from sin, He desires to present us faultless before the throne, in the presence of His glory.

The joy of the Lord reigns in our hearts when we are victorious over the sin of this world. Jude 24

Having sinned, do not give up, go on in Christ. We have the intercessor of greatest ability on our side, The Lord Jesus Christ.

He is our advocate before the throne of the Father.

When He pleads our cause there is no question of the end results. We win pardon and forgiveness. I John 2:1

To the woman at the well, He not only spoke forgiveness but instructed her to go and sin no more. Do not revert to the old life. John 8:11

There is only one who can win our case. He - and He alone - has the office of the great high priest. No other person has the ability to represent us before the throne of God. The man Christ Jesus is the sole mediator. 1 Tim. 2:5

Just think of it, He is touched, He has compassion and feels our emotions, our sorrows and heart aches, as if they were His very own. What a compassionate Jesus. He too was tempted with every temptation common to man.

Yes, even modern day temptations. He has been through the whole process, yet, remained sinless. Ah, but we say, He was the Son of God.

So are we - if we have been born of the Spirit. He lived a sinless life; He will now live that same life in us, **if we will let Him.**

He is the true, the only high priest who has the ability to appear before the Lord for us. Heb. 4:15

Study 4

The new man is one who is born of the same Spirit that brought Christ into the world. He is in Christ. He has become a part of the life that is revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Lord Jesus was unique, so are all those who are in Him. They are new, furnished with a new outlook on life. Life is now viewed through the eyes of the Lord Jesus, through the Word of the Lord and the Spirit of the Lord.

They are now new creatures, the old has passed away and all has become new.

Some of this transformation is immediate, like a babe entering into this world. Its all new, strange and different.

Some is by way of growth, as we live and grow in the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:17

The new man will not necessarily live under a new standard, for the Holiness of the Lord remains the same, whether under Law or grace. Under the Law given Moses, man was the key element.

Man is weak and utterly failed. Now Christ has fulfilled the Law. He satisfied all its demands. Now, that same spirit that enabled Him to satisfy its requirements dwells in the believer.

We now live under the Law of the Spirit of life found in the Lord Jesus. He makes it possible for us to live the Christ life. Rom. 8:2

The blessings of the new life are contained in the Lord Jesus. Therefore, when we are in Him, all spiritual and heavenly benefits are made available to us. Eph. 1:3

Paul in his search for the life that he visualized in the Lord Jesus established a method where by the goal may be reached. He had counted all things but loss, for the great purpose of obtaining the “excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus.”

His single minded desire was to win Christ.

To be fully the real Christ man.

A perfect example and demonstration of the life of the Lord Jesus lived through his life. The secular attainments for which he had previously struggled were discounted and now looked upon as but refuse.

All for the grand purpose of having the completeness of the life of Christ in him.

The Consecration, the dedication of himself to that high spiritual achievement is to be admired and emulated by all who would be followers of the Lord. Phil. 3:8

The last day church, more than any other generation of Christians, must have this same mind, and seek after those things which are above and not after the things of this earth.

Study 5

Most assuredly the new man is a follower of the Lord Jesus. Jesus extended an invitation to any and all to follow Him. Then qualified it by stating His requirement is that of daily taking up a personal cross. Luke 9:23

The cross in this case is well defined, Jesus said, "Let him deny himself." One who has not denied the self life is undisciplined, self centered and unruly. The cross is the cure.

This action is not defined as relating to a few, such as His disciples, those who were His companions - but the challenge is extended to anyone who would truly follow the Lord Jesus.

The results are contrary to the thinking of humanity. "Whosoever shall save his life shall lose it."

The cross speaks of a loss of life in death. In this situation, that death results in life. A seed planted in the soil must die and germinate, coming forth in new life. So, the true follower of Christ must crucify the old life that the new life may come forth in glorious abundance. The crucified life is eternal life. Spiritual, real life is on the far side of the cross. Until experienced we are short changed. The world has nothing to offer that even begins to compare to the riches we find in the Lord Jesus. Luke 9:23-24

Prime Christian living and victory are found in a life which is "crucified with Christ. Gal. 2:20

While there may be loss in being crucified with Christ, the benefits, the spiritual gains far out weigh any and all losses.

The triumphant life, the life of joy and fullness of blessing is found by those who pass through that door of crucifixion with Christ. In their spiritual life they have nailed the world to the cross while at the same time dying to the beggarly elements of the world.

They are Gods free man. Free from the domination of sin and iniquity. Gal. 6:14

The marks of crucifixion are indicators of having been crucified with Christ. They are evidenced in the individual having died to the flesh and its affections and lusts. Gal. 5:24

Paul's statement helps define the work that is accomplished. John gives us an understanding of what is meant by "the world."

The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, well define what is to be removed in the process of being crucified with Christ.

Freedom from these is not a loss, but great gain, for it opens the doors of the store house of the Lord. 1 Jn. 2:16

Study 6

Where dwellest thou? The question put to Jesus by two who were formerly followers of John the Baptist. When John pointed out the Lamb of God, they immediately began to follow Him. John 1:38

Now, today do we then know where He dwells? Heaven is not a good answer. That places Him somewhere afar off.

Most have no conception of where heaven might be. Just where does He dwell? They followed Him to an abiding place made with the hands of man and made after the pattern of this world.

The Lord Jesus Himself proclaims to one and all the place of His dwelling. It is obvious that He is in heaven as the one and only mediator, the mercy seat, our propitiation, our advocate before the throne, and as the Lamb of God.

He has also declared Himself to be much, much closer. It is in this blessed status that He reveals the fellowship which has been opened to all who will believe in Him.

The requirements for the revelation of the abiding presence of the Lord Jesus are not grievous.

They are based on the very foundation of the gospel, love. A love for Him which promotes obedience to the Word. Obedience to the Word causes the Father to love that individual. He sees and understands their appreciation for the Word.

Then the Lord Jesus made one of the most beautiful statements to be found in the Word. Those who have fulfilled these divine requirements will become the dwelling place of the fullness of the Almighty. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, these who are the WE as found in John 14:23

It is in the person of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, that we receive this wonderful and glorious visitation and eternal dwelling of the Living God. He comes to reveal the living Lord to us, to enlighten us as to all of His mighty works and wonders.

He quickens the Word to our heart and minds. He is the great teacher and comes with the truth of the Word of the Lord. John 14:26

He is our contact with all things Spiritual and eternal. From the new birth to the deliverance of the Bride, it is the Holy Spirit at work in our lives. How desperately we need His presence dwelling, abiding in our lives.

He makes the things of the Christ of God to be real to us.

Without His presence, we are totally destitute of the abiding presence of the Lord. He is our contact with all that is Spiritual and of the Lord.

May He ever fill and flood our spiritual man, the New Man, with the glory of Himself.

Study 7

The New Man is the work of the Lord in creating a spiritual man. The body remains a human body but the spirit is drastically altered.

It was formerly motivated by the spirit of the world, a human spirit, contaminated and soiled by sin. It is now born again, a new spirit made capable of receiving the Holy Spirit who comes revealing the things that are of the Lord.

His intent is to cause us to comprehend all the gifts and divine favors that await us in the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Cor. 2:12

The gifts are prepared. They await only the moment when we shall appropriate them unto ourselves. They have been prepared by the Lord for the use of His church in ministry to the world.

The Spiritual benefits of the Lord are innumerable and inexhaustible. A God who is all sufficient cannot be drained or brought to the conclusion of His blessings which He will impart to His beloved people.

To those who are living in obedience to Him and who love Him with all of their being there is no end to the outpouring of His graces upon them. 1 Cor. 2:9

His spiritual riches prepared for His people are not hidden nor kept in secret from them. It is His joy and delight to fully make known all the spiritual benefits which He has prepared for His own. It is the Holy Spirit who will direct us into a knowledge of the

unfathomable glory and the profound rich blessings which belong to the church of His glory. They are not hidden from the spiritual man but to the natural man they are foolishness. 1 Cor. 2:10

When we have Christ Jesus dwelling within, we are the recipients of the source, the treasure mine of all spiritual wisdom and full insight into all of the mysteries of the Lord.

All the eternal knowledge and comprehension of spiritual matters rest with Him. We are the beneficiaries of His spiritual riches as He shares them with us. Col. 2:3

Amazingly, the promise is that we may have the mind of Christ. It is possible that we think as He thinks.

The knowledge and wisdom which is His may also be imputed to us. His people are not to be ignorant, but knowledgeable and capable of full comprehension of all which pertains to Him.

His thoughts become our thoughts. His will and purpose become ours. Our unity with Him is made to be full and complete. 1 Cor. 2:16

Oh the riches of His eternal glory which are yet to be revealed unto His very own in these last days. Lord haste the day.

Study 8

In the beginning God created man. That man was created to reflect the likeness and nature of the Lord. He was made in the image and likeness of God. He was brought into existence to be a son of God. Gen. 1:26

Little did Adam or Eve understand their holy purpose for being placed on this earth. They were showered with benefits both earthly and heavenly. They were privileged to have a sweet communion and walk and talk with the Lord.

But then, sin entered and the whole of their world was spoiled. They were expelled from Eden, from paradise. Gen. 3:23

Left guarding the gateway to the garden of Paradise were cherubim and a flaming sword. Gen. 3:24

A type of the Godhead. Signifying that there is a way into the garden of the Lord, but it will cost one their life.

That is their old life. Something that most people want to get rid of anyhow.

How many times do people say they wish they could start over again? The beauty of it is, that it is possible to have a new and fresh start.

They must come through the sword, the Word of the Lord. The totality of the old man must be laid aside. This too takes place

when we enter properly, through the Word. Eph. 4:22

The New Man is to possess the full nature of the one, the Lord, who has brought Him into a new life, a new creation.

A regenerated being. A person whose interest is now in things spiritual. They seek after the mind of the Lord. They are sanctified, cleansed and best of all forgiven for all the corruptions of the past life.

They now **put on the New Man**. Eph. 4:23-24

They now seek the righteousness of the Lord, and no longer seek to justify their wrong doings.

It is not a case of reformation but of new creation.

It is not a process of education, but that of following the teachings of the new nature which now is birthed within the spirit nature of man. The power of the Lord is unlimited in creating the new man.

The Lord deals with “all things”. A complete new change, all becoming new in the Lord. The very nature of the living Lord is then made evident in the life style and daily mannerism of that new creature.

The new man is a man of dedication unto the Lord. The Word becomes his companion and daily guide. Those who are submissive to the will of the Lord will find the Spirit and the Word very active in their lives, molding their character into the likeness of the character of the Lord.

Study 9

The ideal New Man is a person of total commitment to the Lord. There was an ad on the radio the other day where a very successful and rich business man stated that, “to make money, you have to love it.”

To grow in Christ we must love Him and His Word with all of our hearts. Spiritual growth is based on and nurtured by our love for Him.

The first and great commandment whereby the Christian life is directed is that of great and true love for the Lord. A love which involves the whole man. Mt. 22:37

It is the great and vital commandment.

However, the second commandment is strongly linked to the first for it requires unequivocal love for our neighbors. Not just those next door but for all of the human race. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Mt. 22:39

The statement of the Lord Jesus does not divide humanity into loveable and unlovable categories but includes all, every shape, size and character to be our neighbors.

Our only true example for everything in the Christian life is Jesus. His love is equal toward all, without exception.

The New Man bears little resemblance to the old. As a matter of fact, where would one find a person who even vaguely resembled that which Jesus exemplified? On the cross, he prayed for the forgiveness of those who had crucified Him. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

It is little wonder then, that He would teach His disciples to likewise love their enemies and to pray for those who persecute you. Mt. 5:44

This prayer for them was not to be that the Lord would pronounce a curse on them but rather forgiveness. The prayer of a heart filled with the love of the Lord.

Thereby is to be found proof that the New Man is actually living and active within our spirit nature. This is a manifestation of the power of the new life which is to be seen in all of the children of the Lord. Mt. 5:45

We have another example in Stephen, the first martyr who was stoned by an angry mob of religious individuals. Stephen lived a real Spirit filled life. He was so filled with the nature and life of Christ, that like Him, he prayed for the forgiveness of those who had stoned him. Acts 7:60

Having this example before us we know the effectiveness of that new life which has now become the life of everyone who professes Christ.

Study 10

The New Man is very special in all of their attitudes and spiritual works. They came to the Lord as those who are “poor in spirit”. Mt. 5:3 without Him, or a working knowledge of things spiritual in their lives.

Real poverty is not to be found in temporal things. To be without Christ is to be wretchedly poor in spirit. The richest of the world live without joy or happiness unless they know Christ as the savior. Real life is not to be found in possessions. Luke 12:15

Spiritual blessings, physical blessings, manifold blessings are to be found in the realm of the Spirit. It begins with a recognition by the individual of their condition of spiritual poverty, followed by a desire to find that missing element in their lives. Imagine being offered “the kingdom of God”.

Those who respond to that gnawing hunger within find it fulfilled with deep satisfaction in the Lord Jesus. “Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart”. Jer. 29:13

He is not a God afar off, but is nigh to us.

The poor in spirit have a great reward. They are promised the kingdom of God. It is our inheritance. Therefore we are exhorted to seek first the kingdom of God. Mt. 6:33

Persistently placing the Lord first in our lives will benefit now and

in eternity.

The kingdom of God is revealed in various ways; it is an eternal kingdom which has always been in existence. The ministry of the Lord Jesus brought the kingdom to light. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom was at hand. Mark 1:15

Jesus said that deliverance from demonic powers was evidence of the presence of the kingdom of God. Luke 11:20

When the sick are healed, it is because they have found themselves in the presence of the kingdom. Luke 10:9

The kingdom of God has a great future, for it is eternal. As of now, it is within those who have been born as citizens of heaven. Consider the words of the Lord Jesus, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. John 3:5

Very explicit, very understandable, words. This is the key to the kingdom. Certainly if one has been born from above, then the kingdom of God is made manifest in them. Luke 17:21

The kingdom of God, present in the Millennium - or in the New Heavens and New Earth - will never be desecrated by any act of unrighteousness.

The unrighteous cannot inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor. 6:9

Study 11

The new man is a man of faith. His trust in the Lord Jesus Christ is firm and steadfast. He believes in and fully accepts the message which Jesus brought to this world. The gospel of the kingdom of God. Mark 1:14

Jesus taught that the time had come and that the kingdom of God was at hand. Therefore, faith and repentance were in order. Mark 1:15

Jesus went from city to hamlet ministering this precious message not only in word but in signs and wonders as well. He demonstrated the kingdom. Mat. 9:35

The kingdom is not limited to a particular city, or country, or even heaven.

It is not necessary to take a journey or to die to obtain the kingdom.

Jesus plainly and beautifully declared the kingdom as being within the believer. His statement was, “behold, the kingdom of God is within you.” Luke 17:21

It is not a case of mankind occupying the kingdom, but rather, we are to possess the kingdom. The kingdom is not a natural, worldly kingdom.

The kingdom of God is Spiritual. It is not transitory but eternal.

The kingdom of God is not what we eat or drink, or how we maintain our natural life. By the Spirit the righteousness of the Lord is made manifest in us.

The joy and peace of the presence of the kingdom within us will continue to increase and ultimately become predominant within us.
Rom. 14:17

The coming of the kingdom has made null and void the law and the prophets. That which is beneficial is incorporated into the kingdom, otherwise it falls into misuse. Their time and efforts ceased with the coming of John the Baptist. Luke 16:16

A new and intimate relationship, never before enjoyed, was made possible and all are invited to participate in all the good things which the Lord has prepared for those who love Him.

This is the time and the age of the kingdom of God dwelling within the redeemed of the Lord. "The kingdom," is the message of the blood washed, the saved. It is a possession by and of the Spirit of Christ which should be aggressively sought after.

He has called His people to be a Spiritual kingdom - not something which is to be applied to the sweet bye and bye, but now, in the here and now.

What is more wonderful than having the glories of the kingdom dwelling within these mortal bodies? All the virtues, all the powers of that kingdom are to be made manifest in the church.

She is a living organism. Alive, because the kingdom dwells within.

Study 12

The kingdom of God, is not meat and drink. Rom. 14:17

Most definitely the presence of the kingdom is not determined by life style, or possessions, nor by the riches of this world. If so, then the extremely rich would be just as extremely spiritual.

Jesus spoke a stern warning against covetousness, urging that particular attention be given to those very natural desires to gather unto ourselves the riches of this world.

Also, that life does not consist of the abundance of the things possessed. Possessions never satisfy. Human nature always wants bigger, better and more, much more. Luke 12:15

The Word of the Lord is very explicit in regard to this matter. People who will to be rich fall into temptations and traps - which ultimately plunge them into ruin and destruction. 1 Tim. 6:9

God's way is the only way that fully satisfies, and never falls short of our expectations. His plan is beneficial, not only for this life, but for the life to come as well.

It is so simple and easy; so many disregard the plan that the Lord has established for the blessing and livelihood of His people. Put the Lord first in all things, in every facet of life. His full blessing is found there.

Seek you first, the kingdom of God, and His righteousness and all

these things shall be added unto you. Mt. 6:33

Exalt Him to the first place in life, in everything. First in family life, first in employment, first in finances and most of all first in the love of your heart and keep it that way.

Then what is necessary, that which is vital will become a daily part of life. He will satisfy, with good things.

The positive components of the kingdom of God are many. The kingdom is currently on the earth, in the form of the Spirit of the Lord in His people, as well as in heaven. His presence is the kingdom.

Wherever He is welcomed and received, you will find the kingdom made known. The kingdom is not to be measured in the beggarly elements of this world.

It is not to be found at a worldly level, but is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost - all of which are Spiritual benefits of the kingdom which we may enjoy now, to the fullest. Rom. 14:17

In the path of life which He has prepared for those who love Him, there is to be found fullness of joy, and everlasting pleasures. These are benefits which do not grow old and fade away. They are everlasting, and increase in intensity as we continue to walk with the Lord. Ps. 16:11

His plan, His ways, are contrary to the thoughts and doings of man, but they work - and work very well when followed.

A certain evidence of the spiritual life of an individual may be determined by their goals in life.

The wise man will follow the instructions of the Word of the Lord. Most of the time it would seem that the ways of the Lord are

contrary to the ways of men. Even so, His ways yield excellent results. Try this, it works and produces eternal results. Col. 3:1

His riches, His blessings are everlasting. The dividends are perfect. Better yet, they are secure for time and eternity.

Study 13

It is not the purpose of this study to make an issue of the “Kingdom of God,” but rather to show its importance and its message.

The Lord has made available the kingdom now. We can enter into it and have it within our spirit nature, now, here in this life. The message of the Lord Jesus was exactly that, the kingdom of God.

He went through all the villages and cities preaching the kingdom. Also, He demonstrated the help and benefit of the kingdom by healing every sickness and disease which was among them. Mt. 9:38

The Word which He preached and demonstrated was one of joy and glad tidings. Luke 8:1

He declared and liberally demonstrated to them that the time for the kingdom had arrived.

They had anticipated a natural kingdom a kingdom of this world but He brought a far better. A spiritual, an eternal kingdom. His preaching related to the fulfillment of prophecy, the time is fulfilled. It was a call to repentance and faith.

A call to a new life which was to be found in Him and His message. Mark 1:14-15

The Lord Jesus presented His message without fear or favor to a gathering of chief priests and Pharisees. He bluntly told them that

the kingdom was taken from them and given to others. Mt. 21:43

It is not religious activity which will produce the glories of the kingdom, but rather a willingness to do the will of the Lord. A people who bear the fruit of the kingdom, the righteousness of the Lord, are to make up the kingdom.

Entrance is gained by doing the will of the Lord, which, to some would create peculiar circumstances. Such as the despised publican and harlot going into the kingdom before the extremely religious.

Religion is not required, for it will not achieve that which is sought after. Repentance and a confession of Christ as savior will afford one new life now, and in the eternal kingdom to come. Mt. 21:31

Jesus said; that His kingdom was not of this world.

He did not come to establish His kingdom on earth at that time.

The expectation of the religious was that the Messiah would be nothing more than an earthly king, like king David. They looked for the natural, not the spiritual which He presented to them. John 18:36

Flesh and blood, human kind, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. It is not a natural, earthly kingdom. The ungodly cannot partake in that kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:50

Paul used that statement to introduce those who will occupy the millennial age. The redeemed. The resurrected or transformed. 1 Cor. 15:51-54

Study 14

The New Man will have spiritual goals which coincide with the will and desire of the Lord. Paul established a criterion, an example for the New Man.

Though deeply religious he was spiritually poor, for he was without Christ. Having become a new creature in the Lord Jesus he established the highest aim for his spiritual life. His spiritual drive is expressed in his words; “that I may know Him.” Phil. 3:10a

These words may express different things to different people. Some are contented with just a casual, passing, almost cold and indifferent knowledge. An understanding after the letter of the Word or the tenets of a religion.

With Paul, it was just the extreme opposite. He was possessed with a burning desire to have an intimate relationship, a full and complete knowledge of the Lord Jesus.

The revelation of the knowledge of the Son of God did not come easily. Even His conversion was after a forceful manner. Jesus confronted him on his way to persecute the Christians in Damascus.

A great light, the light of the world, stood before him, causing both Paul and his troop to fall to the ground. Surely the power of the Lord was present. Jesus at that moment called him to go to the Gentiles and preach the gospel. Acts 26:12-18

Paul lived an ideal Christian life. His example is for all to emulate.

The key to such a life is not always acceptable to all who would be Christians. Consider his statements, all of which contributed to his success, as a Christian. “ I am crucified with Christ.” Gal. 2:20

Crucifixion suggests death. Death to self. Death to the old ways of living. Death to the flesh and all of its desires.

The beauty of this precious experience is that it is not physical but spiritual. In the process we lose those unwanted and bothersome elements of the flesh.

He recognized that by means of the crucifixion of Christ, it enabled him to be set apart from the world.

A world which is defined as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. 1 John 2:16

None of which are becoming to a the life of any Christian. There is liberty for all in the Lord Jesus Christ. His death on Calvary’s tree purchased complete freedom for all who will enter into a full and thorough fellowship with Him.

Religious trappings and exercises are futile. With, or without them, is of no merit before the Lord. The only thing which counts before the Lord is that new man, a new creature. One born of the Spirit of the Lord. Gal. 6:15

Study 15 ***“in Christ”***

The secret of the new man is to be found in Christ. Paul mentioned three elements that are involved with those who are in Christ.

They are justified, made to be right and just before the Lord.

Their past is forgiven by the Lord. This is not something which the individual can accomplish themselves, but is an act of God in response to repentance.

Justification is not according to our works but is the free gift of the Lord. It is by the graciousness of His redemption that we are accepted and privileged to live in Christ Jesus. Rom. 3:24

Strong gave the definition of “in” as a primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state).

With that in mind we rejoice in the fact that we may be “in Christ” in a permanent position. The idea of permanency is further seen in that we are established in Christ Jesus, having been sealed with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing more reassuring than having received the filling of the Spirit.

He has sealed us with the Spirit that we might possess the assurance of His continued presence. 2 Cor. 1:21-22

A display of carnality in those who are “in Christ” is an indication of a status of babyhood, immaturity. We all start out as babes in

Christ but the hope of a parent, as cute as a baby may be, is that it will grow and advance toward adulthood.

Spiritual growth is not determined by the length of time that one has been converted. Some, who have been saved but a short time, will grow quickly - because they have an appetite for the Word. Others who have been saved for a long period of time remain as babes. Growth has ceased. They are stunted for a lack of the proper feeding. 1 Cor. 3:1

When we respond, and give heed to the instructions of the Word, it becomes evident that we are indeed His workmanship. Like all of His work of creation, it is created to be perfect. The ultimate goal of the Lord Jesus is a sinless, faultless being. Eph. 2:10

He makes all things to be new. Especially, those who are in Christ. The old things, the old life, the old nature is to be a thing of the past.

We are now new creatures in the Lord Jesus Christ. His Spirit, His bring, His conduct is now to be made manifest in us. All things are to become new. The old man is dead, the new man is alive, in Christ. 2 Cor. 5:7

Study 16

Freedom

Freedom from condemnation is found in the Lord Jesus and in Him alone. It is the divine will of the Lord that we walk in this life void of the condemnation brought on by sin.

Therefore, He has saved us from our sin, and washed us from all unrighteousness. His presence in us becomes a barrier against the works of unrighteousness. We walk, not as in our former life, now after the leading of the Spirit and not after the flesh. We are new creatures, a new creation in Christ Jesus. Rom. 8:1

We are freed from the Law but not to become lawless. There is a definite, positive manner and pattern of life which is imparted to us by the presence of the Lord Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Our Law now is the Law of the Spirit of life which is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit within gives direction according to the Word of the Lord, and imparts assistance to live according to the holiness and righteousness of the Lord. With Him all things are possible. Never discount the ability of the Lord Jesus to live out His life in the dedicated believer. Rom. 8:2a

Freed now from the law of sin and death. Rom. 8:2b

We should no longer be susceptible to the old life which was sin and death. Sin and death are synonymous. **Sin is personal.** Every man shall give an account to the Lord for the deeds of his life on

earth. "The soul that sinneth it shall die." Eze. 18:20a

It is a simple concept. No man, outside of Christ and He took the sin of every man on Himself, but no man will suffer the consequences of the sin of a parent or of a child. In no way are we to bear the responsibility of the sin of others. The accountability rests squarely on the one committing wickedness. The righteousness of one will not be imparted to another. We stand or fall before the Lord as individuals. Eze. 18:20b

Ezekiel eighteen is a good chapter to read and study pertaining to individual responsibility of each and every person. It is also teaches that the responsibility of a close family relationship does not pass the responsibility and punishment of sin from one to the other, even from a father to a son or from a son to a father. Each individual will stand before the Lord and give an account only for themselves and never for another person. Rom. 10:14

The wicked who turn (repent) will not die but live. The iniquities will not only never be held against them but shall not even be mentioned. Eze. 18:21-22

Study 17

The new man is the spiritual man. He is not the old man with all of its sin and iniquity. The new man is created after the likeness of the Lord, in true holiness and righteousness. Eph. 4:24

As there is a process with natural birth, so there is likewise with spiritual birth. Jesus made it very plain that the new man must be born again. John 3:3

How can one live except they be born? As the natural birth is of water and spirit or breath, so the new birth involves spirit and water. John 3:5

Water baptism becomes an imperative to every one who has believed unto salvation. It is the commandment of the Lord Jesus. Mark 16:16

Peter in his message on the day of Pentecost commanded every one of them to follow the Lord in the waters of baptism. Acts 2:38

His word was graciously received and they baptized some three thousand people that day. Acts 2:41

The flood in the days of Noah are indicative of water baptism. The Lord in that day eradicated the ungodly from the earth. It was an act of sanctification and purity. Water baptism is an act of cleansing. Not physical cleansing but spiritual. 1 Peter 3:21

The old man, the past life is buried with Christ in the waters of baptism. Spiritual knowledge and understanding is to acknowledge

that in water baptism we are burying the past, the old life with the anticipation of being raised together with Him and walking in that new life. Rom. 6:3-4

Obedience to the Word will produce the promised gift of the Holy Spirit who is the gift of the Lord to His church. Acts 2:38

Every one is pleased when they receive a gift. The Lord is bombarded with requests for various benefits and helps pertaining to this life. How about receiving that all important gift which He so abundantly grants to us? It is promised to all who are termed believers.

How vital it is that we have the fullness of the Spirit abiding within. Paul was a great man in the faith and strong in his beliefs. There was no wavering or compromise with him. He strongly urged the Romans to live in the Spirit - for if the Holy Spirit dwelt in them, He would direct their lives in the ways of the Lord. He then said; that if they did not have Him within, they did not belong to Him. Rom. 8:9

Blunt, straightforward words, but we need to consider the meaning of them and why they were spoken, not only to the Romans but to all who would follow the Lord Jesus. There are some real strong unavoidable doctrines in the Word and this is one of them.

Study 18

The New Man is a spiritual entity. A person in whom the Lord has chosen to dwell by His Spirit. What a blessing. What a thrill, and more importantly what a responsibility.

It is not a light frivolous experience to have the presence of the God of the whole universe and eternity dwelling within.

The Holy Spirit is not a spiritual toy. He is the sign and seal that the living Lord is being obeyed and dwells within that heart and life. 1 John 3:24

If all have received of His Spirit, should they not then be able to come together in unity? Jesus prayed that His disciples and consequently, His church should manifest the same unity that exists between the Father and the Son. John 17:21

That is the perfection of harmony. There is no evidence of the division caused by fleshly, carnal desires. The desire of the Lord Jesus is that His very own might achieve that perfection of unity where they be come, "one in us."

Perfectly joined together because the Lord reigns in their hearts. His glory being manifest in them because they are one with Him. John 17:22

The new creature, the new man, is - of necessity - born of the Spirit. Like begets like.

The flesh, the carnal man, begotten of and by the flesh remains a

person of flesh. That which is brought forth by the Spirit of the Lord is a Spiritual being and will conduct themselves accordingly, enjoying the blessings and presence of the Spirit. John 3:6-8

Jesus spoke of this heavenly presence and used the term, “Comforter” in relationship to Him. He is recognized as a consoling, interceding factor in the life of those who receive Him.

The deity of His person is acknowledged by the fact that He is called “another,” one who is like the one who just went away, that is the Lord Jesus.

He will abide eternally. He was not solely for that first generation or church, but abides to perform the same display of glory in all who came to the Lord Jesus. John 14:16

The Holy Spirit must be recognized for who and what He is. Jesus proclaimed Him as being the Spirit of truth. John 14:17

Truth in all of His activities. Truth in presenting the will and purpose of the Lord as recorded in His Word.

This is intriguing. If all have received the same abiding Spirit, who is the Spirit of truth. How is it possible that there be a difference in teaching or doctrine between those who have all received the same Spirit of truth?

(To be continued in the next study).

Study 19 ***(Continued from Study 18)***

The Spirit of truth is the Spirit of revelation.

He comes from the Father. His purpose is to assure one that the promises of the Word are true.

His presence will verify the genuineness of the existence of the living God. He will make the Lord Jesus a living reality in the life of the recipient of His Spirit.

The Father has sent Him into the world with the express purpose of making the Lord Jesus know in a full and complete manner to all who believe in Him. John 15:26

Jesus called Him the **Spirit of truth**. He is then, the Spirit of God for it is an impossibility for God to lie. Titus 1:2

His work in the body of Christ is to be a guide, showing the way of unity to the whole of the body. The body, though diverse and scattered all over the world, should be but one body.

How could it possibly be a body without being a unit, unified and made one in all things, by the Spirit of truth and in the Lord Jesus? John 16:13

The body is made to be one, by the truth, the Word, of the Lord. The Holy Spirit, when permitted to perform His duties in the church, will lead her into the full truth, the whole truth.

Found in the Spirit is the same character which may be found in the Lord Jesus. He did not speak of Himself, His own nature or His own ideology. As the Father spoke to Him so he delivered the Word to those who would hear. John 16:13

Likewise, with the Lord Jesus, He too spoke the Words of the Father. Each member of the Godhead, while maintaining their own personality, worked in absolute harmony.

The humility of both the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit are beautifully exemplified in their submission to the Father. Jesus said that He “came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of Him who sent me.” John 6:38

The challenge then becomes whether or not, we, the body of Christ, will follow the same pattern. If all have the Spirit of truth, would we not all speak the same thing?

Paul envisioned the church as doing just that. He wrote to the Corinthians exhorting them to come to a unity in their dogma, teachings and beliefs. 1 Cor. 1:10

This has been tried by modern day organizations, only to fail. We need to hear from the Spirit of truth, for it is He who is destined to build the body of Christ and to guide her into all truth.

Is there that humility in the body of Christ today to take the same stance as the Lord Jesus and the Holy Spirit, and hear and do what the Father says?

Study 20

a people

The first Adam was created by the Lord in His own image and likeness. It is reasonable then to anticipate that the new creation would be formed after the same manner. The New Man is one who has been born of the Spirit.

Jesus said, you must be born again. Aside from the new birth, man cannot comprehend that there is a place and state called the kingdom of God. John 3:3

Entrance is gained solely on the basis of having been born again, a condition of having been birthed by the Spirit of the Lord. Jesus made it very plain that there is a natural man and that there is a spiritual man. John 3:6

The Lord has never hidden His anticipation and expectation of what constitutes the New Man. He will have a people who are of a united heart, an undivided heart, a new heart and spirit.

The hard, disobedient heart removed, and a compassionate and obedient heart given in exchange.

It is to these, of one heart with Him, that He will commit Himself to be their God. Eze. 11:19-20

The prayer of the Lord Jesus was that there be in the body of believers the same unity which is found between Him and His Father. Furthermore that the unity might be consummated in the

living Spirit of the Lord. If all are in Christ then surely all will be one. John 17:21

The ultimate of such union is cleansing, purity, sanctification. “*Be ye holy for I am holy*”. 1 Peter 1:16

The church of the Lord Jesus, His bride is His workmanship. Created, constructed of those who have been made new, that she might demonstrate His power and glory in doing that which is right and just. Eph. 2:10

The last day church must have a vision of that which the Lord will accomplish with a people of His own choice. He has provided and called a five fold ministry to work out His will in and through a responding people. He will lead His own into the perfections which are to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ. In so doing He will bring the church up to His level of righteousness and justice. He will edify the body, the church. Eph. 4:12

In life, everyone has a champion, someone whom they want to emulate. There is no greater evidence of manhood and spirituality to be found among men than that which is to be found in the Lord Jesus. He is the goal and perfect example for all.

To follow Him is to gain eternal life. He is that perfect man. If we follow Him we will never be lead astray. To be fully surrender to do His will is to bring assurance into our lives of life now and in the world to come.

Study 21

Manner of life

The Apostle Paul narrated his past religious stature. He was a Pharisee of high religious stature. His achievements are cataloged in Phil. 3:3-6

When he became a new man in Christ, these things lost their meaning to him, for he found a whole new manner of life in the Lord Jesus.

All that he had sought after and gained were now immaterial to him. They were laid aside for the explicit purpose of gaining Christ. All his past ambitions are now meaningless.

His new goal is that he might gain Christ. All his past knowledge and practice of the Law, that of which he took great pride, he is considering as nothing but refuse. Phil. 3:8

His new goal, and hopefully the goal of every new creature in Christ, is to have a complete and excellent knowledge of Christ Jesus. An understanding of His manner of life and spiritual principles comes by association with Him.

Jesus is revealed in the Word of the Lord. All that we need to know and understand concerning Jesus and His will in our lives is revealed in the Word.

Paul, the scholar was constantly seeking to know more about the Lord Jesus. Can you feel the deer longing in his words, 'that I may

know Him.’ Phil. 3:10

There was a deep longing and as strong passion in him to fully know the Lord Jesus. The new man, the inner, spiritual man is stirred by the Holy Spirit to seek the Lord Jesus with the whole heart, mind and spirit.

The goals of the new man are self evident as we read the writings of Paul.

- First, to win or gain Christ. To have His presence in our inner man.
-
- Secondly, to be found ‘in Him.’ A combination of dwelling in Christ and Christ dwelling in us. A blessed state of spiritual advancement and growth.
-
- Thirdly, in absolute righteousness, not of our selves but of Him. Paul lived in the righteousness of the Law until he came to Christ and found true righteousness. A righteousness which is not earned but is imputed to the believer. A life, a pattern of righteousness which is lived in this world , in the body of flesh, but it is His life being manifest in us.
-
- Fourthly, he wanted to have the power of the resurrection of Christ manifest in his life in this world and for entrance to the world to come.
-
- Fifthly, to know the Lord Jesus in his sufferings and his death. In other words being crucified with Him. Dying to the world and its attractions and desires. Not an easy choice nor an easy path but a blessed one where the glory of the Christ life is made manifest in those who will totally commit to the Lord Jesus. Phil. 3:8-10

Study 22

A baptism

The new man has been brought into existence that we might gain the full benefits of the life of Christ. The Apostle Paul recognized that there were great things prepared for those who would strive for them.

Among them was his desire to obtain “resurrection life” while still in this life. The AMP Version of the New Testament translates his words this way, “*that I might attain to the spiritual and moral resurrection [that lifts me] out from among the dead [even while in the body]*”.

Then there is a foot note for the word spiritual, Williams: “Double compound “non” meaning a spiritual, moral resurrection, not the final, physical one, which will be the climax.”

That opens the door for advancement to a spiritual life that is far greater than any that even the most spiritual are presently living. It is a life, a ministry which will come into evidence in the last day revival and will emulate the full life of Christ. Phil. 3:11

Did Paul really mean that resurrection life was to be obtained in this life? Let’s see what he preached. He taught that water baptism was a spiritual act and experience. It is far more than a public confession of having accepted Christ.

Water baptism is a conforming to the death of the Lord Jesus. He said, “*we are, “buried with Him by baptism into death:”* As real

and as vital a spiritual part of our spiritual life in Christ as the new birth. Rom. 6:4

Water baptism is a matter of life or death.

Death to the old man, the natural man, the carnal man, that sinful nature which will dominate our lives until it is buried with Christ.

It is also termed a planting. Seed planted must first germinate, die then it springs forth into life.

So, the old man must be planted before the new man can grow into a useful and beautiful plant. Rom. 6:5

Accompanying the burial in water there is a resurrection. A manifestation of new life. The nature of a person is changed.

Now, the glory of the Lord is revealed in that person of new life. Now, we are to be in the likeness of His resurrection. Rom. 6:4-5

Water baptism is an act of spiritual circumcision.

The reason for compromise in the church today is partially due to a watered down baptism. That which should be of great importance and blessing has been reduced to a mere religious form.

It must be a time of the putting off of the flesh, the sinful nature. The burial of the individual body of sin. We are privileged to participate in His resurrection glory and power, providing we plant the old man. Col. 2:12

Study 23

“Oh wretched man that I am!” Rom. 7:24a

It seems strange to hear such a groan, such a negative statement coming from the Apostle Paul. Do you suppose he was having an off day? What is more miserable than the realization that there is a high and holy goal which the Lord has established for us and we have not yet been able to reach it?

Struggle and try as we will we feel ourselves short of that which is established by the Word as the norm of a Christian life. He is seeking a way of victory and deliverance. He answers his own question and so, gives to us the source and assurance of deliverance. “I thank God through the Lord Jesus Christ.” Rom. 7:25a

We are completely dependent upon the power of the Lord for victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. There is none other who can set us free from the law of sin and death.

Water baptism is a visit to the cross. Not as an emblem or a shrine but in all actuality. We are invited to share His cross.

To be crucified with Him is the door to all that He wishes to accomplish in us. We must come to a realization that our old man, the carnal nature, has literally been crucified with Christ. There is no other manner given us whereby the fleshly nature may be defeated and the spiritual man take over. We are not to serve sin. There is liberty and freedom for all who will come the way which

the Lord has provided. Gal. 2:20

Only when we are dead are we freed from sin. Rom. 6:7

That is why it is necessary that every child of the Lord visit the cross and become crucified with Him. The anticipation of the Lord is that the Christian will have crucified the desires, the lusts of the flesh. Gal. 5:24

This is what the Word teaches as being a normal Christian life.

The opposite to death is life. Real life is found after a visit to the cross and having partaken of the death of Christ, then we find the very best of life. Life does not consist of the things which a person possesses. Real life, the most satisfying life is that which is lived for the Lord. John 10:10b

The key to the very best of the Christian life is to walk according to the leading of the Spirit, heeding the call of the Word. It is called the law of the Spirit of life. In that law we find recorded the perfect will of the Lord. Its guidance will lead to a life of joy free from condemnation. It produces liberty, not to continue in sin but to be free from the sin and wickedness of this world. Rom. 8:1-2

Let us be glad and rejoice in the liberty granted us in the liberty of the Lord Jesus.

Study 24

Crucified with Christ

I am crucified with Christ. What greater act of identification could we possibly achieve? To follow Christ in His sufferings is most certainly to become one with Him.

Paul established an ideal goal for the Christian life. He was not speaking of a literal crucifixion, as far as the physical body was concerned.

There were certain elements which had been at work in his life before he was saved, which no longer controlled him. They no longer held any appeal to him. Gal. 2:18

Having reached this goal in his life, Paul made it to be a norm for the Christian life. Those who belong to Christ, who have gained Christ in their lives, have crucified the flesh.

Crucifixion speaks of death, and **death speaks of the cessation of the activities of the old life**. Now, when we enter this same experience, we find the victory over the desires of the flesh, the old carnal life.

The affections and lusts of the flesh, with which there is a constant battle, cease, where the individual has died to them. Gal. 5:24

Paul also wrote that he was active in keeping his natural man, the desires of the flesh, in subjection. Things which he knew were contrary to the will and desire of the Lord toward a good strong

Christian life were brought under control. Through Christ, he was in control of his Christian testimony. 1 Cor. 9:27

He compared his life in Christ to that of the running of a race - a matter which would require preparation and training.

Also to that of one who was in a fight, not swinging wildly but with precise aim and purpose. 1 Cor. 9:26

Hence we know that we are in a warfare, and that the battle is not for the faint of heart. Victory is for those who plunge into the fray with their whole being.

The Christian life is enriched by death, that is, death to self, to the base desires of the flesh. To die to the flesh and its strong desire, is to come to life spiritually.

Contrariwise, to live according to the will and wants of the flesh is to die spiritually.

There is no gray area, no twilight zone.

Either we reign in the flesh, and live in the Spirit.

Or we become permissive, self gratifying, and die to the things of the Lord. Rom. 8:13

The goal of the New Man's life is to make the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, welcome in our spirit nature, to do those things which are pleasing to Him, making certain that we do not offend Him in any fashion by actions contrary to the Word of the Lord.

Study 25

The individual born of the Spirit of the Lord will quickly recognize the calling of the Spirit and the Word to be a new person. Jesus said that it is impossible to serve two masters.

People will live under the guidance of the ruler of darkness, the god of this world or they will walk in the light of the Lord. There is no other choice. This is an either or else situation for the life of each and every person who lives on this globe. Anyone who is trying to walk with one foot in the world and the other in Christ is deceiving themselves.

God and mammon (riches and all of its possessions and power), both may not be served at one and the same time. Luke 16:13

The ungodly, the unrighteous, are excluded from the kingdom of the Lord. There is no possibility of them obtaining a part or an entrance in to the eternal presence of the Lord. The Apostle Paul gave a list of sinful acts committed by mankind and emphasizing the fact that they are not to be admitted to the kingdom.

The new man is freed from these corrupting works and acts of the old nature, the sinful man. 1 Cor. 6:9-10

Then he changed pace and includes them all as citizens of that glorious kingdom. The reason is, that what we once were, now in Christ, we are no longer. The Spirit of the Lord working in us will wash away the sin of the past by the blood of Christ. He will sanctify, and cleanse from the former works and habits of sin. The

new man is justified before the Lord, not in his sin, but from all sin.

We are given a right standing before the Lord. Made righteous by His power and Word displayed in our lives. 1 Cor. 6:11

We have perfect communication with the Lord, by His Spirit and by the Word. If we have ears to hear, the Spirit of the Lord will speak to us through the Word, and we will be led by the Spirit as sons of the Most High. Rom. 8:14

Such Divine guidance brings assurance into the heart that one has been accepted as a son of God. No longer a stranger or foreigner but now adopted as a true son of God. Granted all the rights and privileges of every other member of the family.

It is the Spirit who reveals to us the status that we now enjoy in Christ Jesus. As children, graciously received and acknowledged, the new man is included in the inheritance which is to be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.

With everything that He has inherited, there is an equal portion for each and every Son of God. All of the spiritual, eternal blessings which are His are shared and shared alike. There is no shortage of the glory of the Lord. Rom. 8:16-17

Study 26

Law

The new man is one who is living his life, naturally and spiritually, in Christ. That is, his whole demeanor will show forth that life which they have received from the Lord Jesus.

The inner man, the spiritual man, will have a profound effect on the life style, the likes and dislikes of an individual until they manifest the nature of Christ. There is a law for the Spirit of life that is found in the Lord Jesus. Rom. 8:2

His law brings liberty from the Law of sin and death which was the Law given to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Law given was perfect, holy and righteous.

The weakness of the Law was manifest in the individuals who were attempting to keep the Law. It demanded a code of conduct unto which they could not attain. But now, because Christ is in the new man, what they could not achieve is made achievable because of His abiding presence. Rom. 8:3-4

Those who are truly in Christ are blessed with all spiritual blessings. Measure that if you will. There is no limit of power and blessing that He can and will bestow on those who are determined to live the life of Christ Jesus. Eph. 1:3

The heavenly place, the heavenly atmosphere, is found by those who are in Christ. We at this very moment are privileged to sit with Him in heavenly places; that surely means in the very throne

presence of the Lord. It is neither past tense or future tense, but now, this very moment of time that we may find ourselves in that heavenly atmosphere. Eph. 2:6

These are kingdom rights which are extended to all who are in Christ. Surely it is time to participate of all that He has made available to us.

That Christ may dwell in your hearts. This is a truth which is stated in various ways throughout the New Testament scriptures. It expresses the desire of the Almighty to be one with those who are His people. Eph. 3:17

How else may we come to a mature person in Christ Jesus unless we have His Spirit dwelling within? Agape love, loving as the Lord loves, may only be manifest in His children as they know the power of His presence. Spiritual roots of love depend on our stability in Christ.

Without the leading of His great love we cannot come to the status of the high calling in Christ. Love, which surpasses knowledge, is the key, the door, the way to the manifestation of the fullness of all that is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are not only united in one body but we are totally joined with Him, making us one with Christ. Eph. 3:19

Study 27

Human Nature

The human nature is always seeking after something, it knows not what, but feels that it is just around the next corner. A lucky break. A twist of fate and that strange longing will be satisfied, but it never is. That is, until one comes to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. In creation, the Lord incorporated into the make up of man a capacity for spiritual things.

We substitute the things of this life and world but they never measure up to a complete satisfaction. There is always an emptiness, a cry for more. Mankind is not only natural but he is also spiritual.

To neglect the spiritual and favor the natural can only create an emptiness, even when surrounded by the wealth of the world. Why is it so? “God has set eternity in their hearts.” Ecc. 3:11b NIV

Only eternal life can fully satisfy that void which the Lord has placed in each and every one of us.

Oddly enough, to know Christ, while bringing great satisfaction and joy to the heart, will create a greater desire to know Him better.

We have a tremendous example in the Apostle Paul. One who was willing to forsake all which is important to the worldly minded that he might gain in the knowledge of Christ. A knowledge, and acquaintance which he counted as being of the highest value. He

was determined to find a more intimate fellowship, a more complete comprehension of this wonderful man, the Lord Jesus.

To obtain his goal he was willing to lose all that had been so important to him in the past. All things would include wealth, fame, fortune, standing in the religious community and anything else which he had valued.

Too great a sacrifice? Not for the benefits gained. Phil. 3:8

That I may “be found in Him.” Phil. 3:9

This is the secret place of the Most High. The glory of His presence. In the case of Paul it also included that which had been the source of pride in his life, the righteousness of the Law. Self righteousness, not the righteousness which is found in the Lord Jesus.

Paul recognized the difference and sought after the righteousness of Christ, which is the gift of the Lord to all who will seek Him. The Lord Jesus imparts that which is true righteousness, that which completely changes the attitude and behavior of the recipient.

It is a righteousness obtained by faith and not by the works of the law or by good deeds. Faith is made operative by out love from the Lord Jesus Christ. Gal. 5:6

Study 28

Spiritual birth

The new man is one who has awakened to spiritual truths. Being religious is not enough. Because of religion, Jesus laid great emphasis on the new birth. He made it an imperative for entrance into the kingdom of heaven by stating, 'ye must be born again'. John 3:7

A true spiritual birth is the beginning of an entirely new and different life. It opens to us a vast source of an understanding of the true God, along with all of His intents and purposes. The natural man, the carnal mind, finds it impossible to receive the things of the Spirit - because he does not have a spiritual mind.

If we have the Spirit working in our spirit, then we may anticipate having the mind of Christ. This is the ultimate of spiritual experience. 1 Cor. 2:16

The magnitude of the promises given by the Lord Jesus to those who are born a new into His kingdom is utterly amazing. So, we find the Word saying to us, 'Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.' Phil. 2:5

The call is to be like minded with the Lord Jesus. To have his personality and His thoughts imparted to us by the Word and the Spirit of the Lord.

The body of Christ, the church, in order to function in unison, will have to be like minded with He who is the head. The fact that there

is a petition made to the church to be one in mind and mouth assures one of the purpose of the Lord being fulfilled in His people. Rom. 15:6

The bride of Christ will be that perfect example of unity and cooperation. Functioning as one, with a thought pattern that is always in contact and agreement with the leading of the Spirit, in perfect harmony and accord. 1 Cor. 1:10

Some signs of one having the mind of Christ. A love for the Lord which involves the total man, heart, soul and mind. The Lord Jesus requires nothing more of us than what He has already given. Mt. 22:37

Then He added the acid test, at times the most difficult of commandments to keep. Love your neighbor, your fellow man, whether saved or unsaved, as you do yourself. Lk. 10:27

The mind of Christ in us is a mind which has been refreshed and revived. A new mind willing to follow the entire will of the Lord in every aspect of serving Him. Rom. 12:2

That new mind is a disciplined mind, brought into subjection to the Lord Jesus, and more than ready to do His will. 2 Tim. 1:7

Unity of mind produces love, compassion, care, and courtesy, one toward another. 1 Peter 3:8

Study 29

The new man is a spiritual man. He will experience a spiritual birth. He is born anew, of the same Spirit which brought Christ into the world. Jesus was very emphatic when He said; “Ye must be born again.” (John 3:7) - just as one is not in this world until they have been born of their mother.

So, those who would be in the kingdom of the Lord are born of the Spirit into that kingdom.

Otherwise they are unaware of its existence. John 3:3.

The Word of the Lord is that perfect seed producing new life in the believer.

The Word is eternal, therefore it produces eternal life. 1 Peter 1:23

As a baby needs milk, so the new life in Christ must feed on the Word of the Lord. Spiritual growth may only be accomplished by feeding on the Word. 1 Peter 2:22

First steps are of great importance to parents. How they like to broadcast the news, “Baby took its first steps today”.

It is well to read the instructions before assembling a new toy for the kids; then, we do not end up with spare parts! The Lord has given us excellent instructions in the Word of the Lord, pertaining to our walk in Him. If we follow them we cannot go astray. The Word will direct us in the ways of the Lord and not the perverse ways of this world. Eph. 4:17

Walking in the light of the Lord, the Word of God, we realize that we have a constant companion who walks with us. 1 John 1:7

He is the light of the world. John 8:13

His very nature is light. 1 John 1:5

As light is vital to human existence on this earth, so the light of the Word is an absolute must for spiritual life.

The new man is privileged to live a life that is glorious and marvelous, a life that is lived in the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit of God. The Lord is desirous of imparting to His own all the elements of His life. We are called upon not only to live in the Spirit, but to likewise walk in the Spirit. Gal. 5:25

It is here, in the manifestation, the demonstration of the life in the Spirit that we live in victory. The lust, the unclean desires of the flesh, are overcome by the power of the Word and the Spirit who is now resident within the believer. Gal. 5:16

There is complete liberty and freedom in the pathway of the Spirit. Rom. 8:2

There is a life giving force in the anointed Word of the Lord. Jesus came, speaking in the Spirit, life giving Words. John 6:63

That same power, and the identical words, are made available to His church today. It is time that we started to take advantage of all that He has made available to us through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Study 30

Promises

The all promises of the Lord are yea and Amen in the Lord Jesus Christ.

That yea is of the strongest affirmative. A declaration which cannot fail because of the person making it.

As the Amen, the Lord is the final authority. All of His divine power validates the promises that He has made in His Word.

We may place absolute confidence in every promise which He has made. He will fulfill them to the nth degree. 2 Cor. 1:20

While His promises are to all, they also become very personal, for each person who comes to Him He deals with individually.

The working of the Spirit in the life of the believer is evident from the very beginning of that new life in Christ. The new birth is a result of the Spirit of the Lord working in our lives. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. The spiritual journey begins with a birth in the Spirit. John 3:6-8

Now, having received the Spirit of God, He reveals unto us the promises of the Lord. Those things which are so generously and freely given us of the Lord. 1 Cor. 2:12

The dwelling of the Spirit of the Lord in our spirit nature will produce a whole new attitude of life, for now, we have been made

free from the law of sin and subsequent death. Rom. 8:2

It was John the Baptist who introduced the people to the Lord Jesus as the one who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire. Mt. 3:11

As John's baptism of repentance was the order of the day and a divine requirement, so is the baptism of the Spirit even unto our day and time. It is not a divine luxury item but a great benefit and necessity in our spiritual life. Jesus reiterated that promise, after His death and resurrection, to those gathered in Jerusalem. Acts 1:4-5

He then kept His promise, for on the day of Pentecost the Spirit came upon those who had waited for the promise to be accomplished. Acts 2:3-4

Please consider that the Spirit baptism came with fire. The fire purges, it cleanses and sanctifies the vessel being filled. As important as tongues, is the fire of the baptism, if not more so. In the fire of the Spirit is to be found manifest the power of the Lord. The fire brings with it and leaves behind an anointing which is the real evidence of the presence of the Spirit. He is the Comforter, the Spirit of truth whom, Jesus promised He would send. He was not one who came to birth the church but to remain and be the consistent teacher and guide to the church. John 14:16

Study 31

Anointing of the Spirit

To be effective in the work of the Lord it is necessary that we be filled with the Spirit of the Lord. In what is called the “great commission”, Go, PREACH the gospel to every creature, there is more activity than just preaching or witnessing. Mark 16:17

There are certain evidences which attribute to the veracity of the message being declared. Those who were called were to cast out devils. To speak with new tongues. They have power over serpents and poisonous drinks. Mark 16:17

They also have the God given ability to lay hands on the sick and see them recover. Mark 16:18

Jesus, as usual, established the example by casting out devils by the Spirit. If His motivation was the Spirit of the Lord, how much more do we need the same Spirit in our lives.

The prophet Micah was a man inspired by the spirit of the Lord. He was filled with the power of the Spirit to declare the Word of the Lord and speak it forth without fear or favor. He faced and spoke to the iniquitous houses of Jacob and Israel. Micah 3:8

Paul experienced a mighty anointing when facing one filled with demonic powers. That false ministry was halted when the individual was blinded at the command of Paul. Acts 13:9-11

The presence and leading of the Spirit becomes a witness of His

abiding in our lives. To be directed by the Spirit gives great assurance of being a son of the Lord. Rom. 8:14

A life lived according to the commandments of the Lord (Mt. 22:37-40) gives evidence of the Spirit abiding in that individual. That person will dwell in the Lord and the Lord in him. 1 John 3:24

This is the perfect will of the Lord. He has always desired to dwell within those who would be His people. It is the great Divine goal of the Lord which will be fulfilled to the absolute completeness in His church in these last days.

As we involve ourselves more and more in the Word of the Lord, its message and power begins to manifest a great influence on our lives. We are altered into His likeness and personality. His Spirit will change us into His image and resemblance.

His great longing is to have a people who are equal to Himself. Those whom the Spirit of the Lord has directed into that deep and holy life in the Lord Jesus. 2 Cor. 3:18

They grow and advance into the same majestic likeness as the Son of God, the Lord Jesus. There is such a desperate need today for the mighty anointing of the Spirit upon the church and the revelation of the Word. Lord Jesus, increase the hunger of our hearts for you.

Study 32

The Kingdom is here

The kingdom now. The prayer which the Lord Jesus taught us to pray states, “Thy kingdom come.” Are we praying for a future, coming kingdom or is that kingdom here? The answer is found in the next statement, ‘in earth.’ Not only is it an event which takes place on earth but it is a work that is accomplished ‘in earth’ or the human element. Mt. 6:10

The people of that day were looking for a king who would establish an earthly kingdom. Jesus made it very plain that the kingdom of God was not of this world and could not be discovered visually. Nor were they to run about, hither and yon, searching for the kingdom. The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom and is manifest within the heart and life of those who are citizens of that kingdom. Luke 17:20-21

The true child of the Lord will manifest all the attributes of that kingdom which dwells with in them.

The affinity between Christ and His church is to be full and complete. He is not a God afar off but is nigh to all who will call upon His name. We are brought into fellowship with Him by His blood. No longer strangers but now fully aware of His presence in our lives. Eph. 2:13

Our association with Christ is assured and maintained by the Word of the Lord. That Word hidden in our hearts is our source of life. It directs us, it feeds us, it reveals the nature and being of the Lord

and encourages us to allow the life of Christ be lived in us. Rom. 10:8

The evidence of the depths of a Christians desire to follow Him is in the love made manifest for His Word.

Obedience, comprehension, dedication to the Word - and it's precepts - are the measure of our love for Him. It is through the Word that we learn of His will for us.

A positive response to the Word will result in the presence of the living God dwelling within our heart and spirit. He has promised that the fullness of the Godhead will abide within the being of the one who loves Him. John 14:23

He comes as the Spirit of truth. He teaches us the truth concerning the Word, guiding us into all truth. Jesus said that He would dwell in you and would abide with you. His presence assures us of the constant revelation of the Divine truths of the Word. John 14:17

He is indeed a God who is close to His people, and not one who is far off. How much closer could He possible be, when He dwells within our spirit which is in absolute unity with Him? We need to take full advantage of all the promises that He has left to us.

Study 33

His Presence

The words of the Lord Jesus made a deep impression on John, therefore he recorded the Lord's promises pertaining to the presence of the Lord within the spirit nature of the believer. The magnitude of the promises made are immeasurable.

Jesus promised that the Spirit of truth would come in the form of the Holy Spirit. That Spirit would not only be with His people, but He would dwell with them. Strong gives the meaning of the word dwell, Gr. Meno, as to abide, continue, to stay, to remain. That is very conclusive that His intent was to be a permanent dweller, one whom we would welcome gladly and that He would remain for life.

No wonder Jesus said that we would know Him. As the one who is received gladly and continues to abide with us, through association, we would learn more and more of Him daily. Greater yet, not only will He dwell with us, but He will be in us. What a tremendous privilege. John 14:17

It is staggering to see the enormity of the promise of His presence. It is like a gold mine, filled with spiritual wealth, but not worked. The map of it's whereabouts is available to all. If we really love the Lord Jesus we are gong to take advantage of His marvelous offer of "being filled with all the fullness of God." Eph. 3:19

This Word was written for the benefit of one person, or one church or but for every generation, excluding none. The promise is still

available to all who will take advantage of it.

The gift, the presence which is made available, is God. The Godhead in the person of the Spirit of God. Jesus said, "We will come". John 14:23

Consider carefully these words. Filled, to make full, to cram, to level, to complete, fill up. All sufficiency. We all know what it means to fill something or to fulfill an obligation. What the Lord had in mind was to fill His own with the entirety of Himself.

Thus, His purpose regarding His people is that there be no room for anything but that which is His very being. "That you may be filled through all your being, unto all the fullness of God" (Amplified Version).

All, showing the whole, lacking nothing. Fullness, like a vessel filled to the brim. The completeness of all that He is, in His omnipresence, dwelling in His redeemed. The Lord gives of Himself - to each a measure of His eternal Spirit and Being, yet, in giving He is never depleted. He will fill all and be in all. Ever imparting of Himself, but remaining the same. He is inexhaustible. Eph. 3:19

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